CAVERSWALL OF CAVERSWALL, STAFFS

ARMS:*Argent fretty azure a fesse gules (a1299) [CAVERSWALL 1]; *Argent three bar-gemels sable [ERCALL later CAVERSWALL 2]; *Argent fretty gules a fesse azure (1334) [CAVERSWALL 3]; *Argent two bars cottised sable (c1377) [CAVERSWALL 4]

CREST:

Of CAVERSWALL was lord, in Richard the First's time [1189-99], as I take it, one Thomas de Caverswall; from whom it descended to sir William de Caverswall, knt. who had issue sir Richard de Caverswall, knt. who had issue William de Caverswall [249a], who builded there a goodly castle and pools, the dams being of masonry, and all his houses of office likewise. He had issue Richard de Caverswall, who lived 19 Edw. III [1345-6] [This might be an error for 9 Edw. II [1315-6]. In Caverswall church is a monument of sir William Caverswall with this inscription about it: "Will'us de Caverswall, miles" at the head and then about it:

Castri structor eram, domibus, fossisque cemento
Vivis dans operam; nunc claudor in hoc monumento [250a]

Whereby it appears that sir William Caverswall that lieth there entombed, was the builder of the castle and the rest. The monument is of marble, and the picture, arms, and epitaph, have been engraven and laid with copper, but the copper is taken out (such is the iniquity of this age), and yet I might perceive what the letters were, but not the arms. Somerset herald [250b], and Scarlet his painter, would need persuade me that the coat was Argent, three pair of gemels sable; and in the window is such a coat seen, but it hath a red label: the coat without the labels belongs to Ercall of Shropshire, and is not indeed Caverswall's, but it would rather seem that some of the Caverswalls had married with a daughter of some of the Ercalls. Caverswall's coat [251a] I have seen divers seals of, and all that I have seen agree that it is frette with a fesse; and in Cubley church window in Derbyshire (sometime Montgomery's seat, who was also lord of Caverswall, and now sir Thomas Stanhope [251b] hath it, as heir to Montgomery) I have seen Argent, frette azure with a red fesse, which, no doubt, was set there for Caverswall's arms; (and there is one Knighton, doth bear the same, with three mullets gold on the fesse, but he intruded himself thereinto) for that (as I take it) one John Careswall [251c] [? recte CRESWELL] a younger son of the aforesaid Thomas Caverswall, bare it, who had two daughters, one married to Peshell, and the other to sir William Trumwyn of Cannock; and I believe there was a third, married to Knighton, whereupon Knighton, bare Careswall's armory.

[249a] Sir William de Carswall, temp. Edw. II. [1307-27] built a large and strong stone castle, surrounded by a deep moat. There were square turrets at the heads of the extensive pieces of water round the castle, as an additional defence. It became by marriage the property and residence of the noble family of Vane. Leland called it "the castle or prati pile of Caverwell". [ERDESWICK (1844) 249-51]

VIS.LONDON.1633-4 141 gives details of a family named CAR(E)SWELL whch claimed descent from this family.

(?Thomas) Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs c1175-
chn: [?] Richard Caverswall b c1200 below
[?] Robert Caverswall b c1204 further below

Richard Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs c1200-
chn: William Caverswall ?below

Sir William Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs Knight c1225-1292
m Mary Dilhorne dau and coheir of Ralph Dilhorne c1200-.... QV
d 1292
(by right of his wife, lord of Billington [? and Dilhorne]) *1285-1292; (held Billington) *1285; (patron of Caverswall until granted to St Thomas Priory) a1291; (by purchase from Saer Maveswyn, lord of Coton, until granted to St Thomas Priory);

(Sheriff, Staffs & Salop) 1261 1268-9; (built Caverswall Castle); (had licence to crenellate at Caverswall) 1275
chn: Richard Caverswall [1] b c1255 below

Sir Richard Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs Knight c1255-a1299
m Scolastica Hastang dau of Sir Robert Hastang of Chebsey, Staffs Knight c1235-.... QV
d a1299
(as son and heir, lord of Billington [? and Dilhorne]) 1292-a1299; [??? (a valet [under age], Staffs) *1293]; (knighted) 1294; (Collector of tenth etc, Staffs) 1295; (M.P., Staffs) 1295; (served in Scotland) 1298; (? slain at Falkirk)
chn: Richard Caverswall b c1280 below

Sir Richard Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs Knight c1280-a1324
m a1309 Jane Ercall dau and coheir of Sir William Ercall of High Ercall, Salop Knight c1260-.... QV
d a1324
(as son and heir, lord of Billington, Caverswall, 1/2 Dilhorne and 1/2 Fosbrook) a1299-a1324; (by reversion, lord of Littywood) p1315-a1324; (under age) 1299; (of age) 1303; (M.P., Staffs) 1313(3); (knighted) a1315; (lord of Caverswall and Dilhorne) *1316
chn: William Caverswall below

Sir William Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs Knight c1310-a1359
m c1334 Mary .....; m1 Geoffrey Langley c1313-.... QV; (long since dead) 1359 [IPM]
IPM (Warwicks) 20 Mar 1358.9/31 Mar 1359 [503]
(as son and heir, lord of Billington until claimed by Ralph Stafford) a1324-1353; (as son and heir, lord of Littywood) a1324-?1369; (lord of Mulcote and Pinley, Warwicks) [IPM]; (fought at the second Dunstable tournament) 1334 [FEUDAL COATS 47]
chn: Peter Caverswall b c1335 below

Sir Peter Caverswall of Caverswall, Staffs Knight c1335-a1412
m Mary .....; (? but had no chn)
d 1398-1412
(of High Ercall, Salop); (as son and heir, lord of Littywood until granted to Trustees) ?1369-1391; (sued Langley heirs etc) 1370 [PFTPR 101]; (Sheriff, Staffs) 1376-7; (M.P., Salop) 1380 1382 1384

Robert Caverswall c1204-
b c1204 ? son of ..... Caverswall c1175-.... QV
chn: William Caverswall below

William Caverswall of Littywood in Bradley c1229-....
(by grant from Robert Stafford, lord of Littywood) a1261-....
(as son of Robert C., settled Littywood on [? his son] William Caverswall and his wife Joan, with remainders to their dau Eleanor and William Caverswall son of Richard Caverswall) 1289
chn: [?] William Caverswall below

William Caverswall of Littywood in Bradley, Staffs c1254-a1297
m a1289 Joan .....
d a1297
(lord of Littywood) ....-a1297
chn: [?] Henry Caverswall below
Eleanor Caverswall [?heir] m a1297 Henry Harcourt; (both living) 1315

[? UNCERTAIN BELOW]

Henry Caverswall of Levedale in Penkridge, Staffs
(with others, held 1KF in Levedale) *1285

Henry Caverswall of Levedale in Penkridge, Staffs c1279-a1329

m Margaret .....
d a1329
(held a small fee of mortmain in Levedale) *9 May 1303
chn: Roger Caverswall below

Roger Caverswall of Levedale in Penkridge, Staffs c1304-
chn: Agnes Caverswall m Walter Stafford

NOTES: William Kavereswell (regarding Ellaston) 1284 [PFTPR 503]

REFERENCE: PFTPR 101 503 505-6 (8/4/04)

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